

Due to the alarming increase of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations – the following guidelines are to be implemented for the Diocese of St. Augustine. **Effective immediately**, Bishop Estevez has made the following measures and precautions to be implemented this weekend.

We encourage everyone who is eligible and with the consultation of their medical doctor to receive a vaccination. Those who are ill or have severe underlying health conditions are encouraged to participate in the Mass via live stream from the safety of their homes.

For this weekend the following measures will be implemented:

- Handwashing and disinfecting to be practiced by all the clergy, faithful, music ministry/readers/Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion, ushers, sacristans and altar servers.
- Social distancing should be maintained and observed by all when possible. Family members may sit together.
- All clergy and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion should be masked.
- All are encouraged to wear masks.
- There should be no physical contact during the sign of peace.
- All hymnals and missalettes have been removed as well as holy water fonts to be emptied.
- Ministers are required to wear masks during the distribution of Holy Communion.
- Communion to be received in the hand only.
- Baskets for Offertory Collection will be placed at Baptismal Font and the Offertory Procession is suspended until further notice.
- Choirs are recommended to wear masks unless they can socially distance.

The pandemic has meant a huge imposition on normal life and we thank the faithful for their diligence and perseverance during this pandemic.